

JUL 29 2005

PTO/SB/30 (10-01)

Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0651-0031  
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under the paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number

<b>REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE) TRANSMITTAL</b>  Address to: MS RCE Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450	Application Number	09/976,443
	Filing date	October 12, 2001
	First Named Inventor	Ronald E. Sloan
	Art Unit	3628
	Examiner Name	T. Harbeck
	Attorney Docket Number	60021-376002

**This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 CFR 1.114 of the above-identified application.**

Request for Continued Examination (RCE) practice under 37 CFR 1.114 does not apply to any utility or plant application filed prior to June 8, 1995, or to any design application. See Instruction Sheet for RCEs (not to be submitted to the USPTO) on page 2.

**1. Submission required under 37 CFR 1.114**

- a. ☒ Previously submitted
- i. ☒ Consider the amendment(s)/reply under 37 CFR 1.116 previously filed on May 31, 2005.  
(Any unentered amendment(s) referred to above will be entered).
- ii. ☐ Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on \_\_\_\_\_.
- b. ☐ Enclosed
- i. ☐ Amendment(s)/Reply
- ii. ☐ Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)
- iii. ☐ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)
- iv. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

**2. Miscellaneous**

- a. ☐ Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 CFR 1.103© for a period of \_\_\_\_\_ months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 CFR 1.17(l) required)
- b. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

**3. Fees**

- The RCE fee under 37 CFR 1.17(e) is required by 37 CFR 1.114 when the RCE is filed.
- a. ☒ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the following fees, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. 60-1901.
- i. ☒ RCE fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(e) - \$790 (large entity status).
- ii. ☒ Extension of time fee (37 CFR 1.136 and 1.17) - \$120 (1 mo. extension large entity status).
- iii. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_
- b. ☐ Check in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ enclosed.
- c. ☐ Payment by credit card (Form PTO-2038 enclosed)

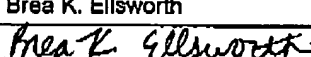
**WARNING: Information on this form may become public. Credit card information should not be included on this form. Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038.**

**SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED**

Name (Print/Type)	Rudolph P. Hofmann	Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)	38,187
Signature		Date:	July 29, 2005

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: MS RCE, Commissioner For Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, or facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on the date shown below.

Name (Print/Type)	Brea K. Ellsworth	Date:	July 29, 2005
Signature			

OPPENHEIMER: 2350657 v01 07/29/2005

PAGE 2/3 \* RCVD AT 7/29/2005 3:16:24 PM [Eastern Daylight Time] \* SVR:USPTO-EFXXRF-6/26 \* DNIS:2738300 \* CSID:612 607 7100 \* DURATION (mm:ss):01:18

08/01/2005 GWORDOF1 00000040 501901 09976443

01 FC:1251

120.00 DA